

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGRE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 /045 W
-----003769 232313Z /61
R 231520Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5909

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GY, ELAB, PINT
SUBJECT: GAWU CALL FOR 24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE FAILS

SUMMARY: GAWU ATTEMPT TO ENLIST TUC SUPPORT FOR
24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE BEFORE CHRISTMAS HAS FAILED.
HOWEVER, TUC HAS ACCEPTED A PROPOSAL BY THE STRIKING
GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' UNION (GAWU) TO STATE
PUBLICLY ITS POSITION ON CURRENT SUGAR STRIKE, NOW
WELL OVER 100 DAYS IN DURATION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE PAST WEEK, EMBASSY RECEIVED REPORTS
FROM USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT THE PPP-SUPPORTED
GUYANA AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS' UNION
(GAWU), WHICH CONTROLS THE COUNTRY'S SUGAR CANE
WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE FOR WELL OVER 100
DAYS, WOULD TRY TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR A 24-HOUR
GENERAL STRIKE BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT A TUC (GUYANA
TRADES UNION CONGRESS) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
SET FOR DECEMBER 21.; COLLABORATING WITH GAWU IN
SUPPORT OF THIS ACTION WOULD BE THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL AND
INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES (NAACIE), UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA
STAFF ASSOCIATION :UGSA), MANPOWER CITIZENS'
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ASSOCIATION (MPCA) AND THE CLERICAL AND COMMERCIAL
WORKERS' UNION (CCWU).

2. THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES ON WHICH GAWU WOULD REQUEST
THE TUC TO TAKE A DECISION WERE:
(A) THAT GAWU BE GIVEN RADIO TIME TO EXPLAIN ITS
POSITION AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING UP TO THE

SUGAR STRIKE:

(B) TO CALL A 24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE

(C) TO CALL ON ITS AFFILIATES TO GIVE FINANCIAL

ASSISTANCE TO THE STRIKING SUGAR WORKERS;

(D) FOR THE TUC TO MAKE PUBLIC ITS POSITION ON THE
SUGAR STRIKE.

3. LOCAL MEDIA ON DECEMBER 22 AND DECEMBER 23,
REPORTED THAT THE CALL BY GAWU FOR A 24-HOUR GENERAL
STRIKE BEFORE CHRISTMAS WAS REJECTED DURING A
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE TUC ON
DECEMBER 21.

4. TUC GENERAL SECRETARY JOSEPH POLLYDORE WAS
REPORTED AS HAVING SAID THAT AFTER SOME DISCUSSION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT:

(A) IF RADIO TIME WAS TO BE GIVEN, IT SHOULD BE
GIVEN TO THE TUC AND NOT TO THE UNION INVOLVED IN
THE STRIKE BECAUSE THE TUC WAS HANDLING THE MATTER;

(B) ON THE QUESTION OF CALLING A 24-HOUR GENERAL
STRIKE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT SUCH A STRIKE AT THIS
TIME WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT;

(C) THE TUC WOULD NOT, AT THIS STAGE, CALL ON
ITS AFFILIATES TO GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE
STRIKING WORKERS;

(D) THE TUC WOULD AGREE TO PUBLICLY STATE ITS POSITION
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ON THE STRIKE.

5. MEDIA REPORTS ADDED THAT POLLYDORE WAS REQUESTED
BY THE TUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO DRAFT STATEMENT
CONCERNING THE SUGAR STRIKE AND GAWU'S DEMANDS
WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT TUC EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN TWO WEEK'S
TIME.

BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GENERAL STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE03323
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770480-0523
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 140846
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAWU CALL FOR 24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE FAILS SUMMARY: GAWU ATTEMPT TO ENLIST TUC SUPPORT FOR 24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE BEFORE CHRISTMAS HAS FAILED
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, GY
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Review Markings:
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